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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/797,186	03/11/2004	Akiko Niimi	119077	4948
25944	7590	04/07/2005		EXAMINER
OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC P.O. BOX 19928 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320			CRENSHAW, MARVIN P	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2854	

DATE MAILED: 04/07/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/797,186	NIIMI, AKIKO	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Marvin P. Crenshaw	2854	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 March 2004.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1 - 11 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) Claim(s) 1 - 11 is/are rejected.
7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 11 March 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a))

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/11/2004.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ .
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: ____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Murakami.

Murakami teaches a printing device comprising a printing medium supporting member (2) having a supporting face for supporting a printing medium, a screen plate (3) fitting detachably onto said supporting face in a state where the printing medium is sandwiched between said screen plate and said supporting face of said printing medium supporting member and an ink emission (9, 10 and 11) section for emitting ink onto the printing medium on said supporting face.

With respect to claim 10, Murakami teaches a printing method (Fig. 1) comprising the steps of screen printing for printing onto a printing medium by means of a screen plate and ink emitting (9, 10 and 11) for emitting ink of a darker color than the ink used in said screen printing step, onto the screen printed region, from an ink emission section.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2, 3, 8, 9 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Murakami in view of Siegeritz.

Murakami teaches all that is claimed, as discussed in the above rejection of claims 1 and 10 except, an ink determining means for determining the density of ink and the color.

Siegeritz teaches a printing device further comprising ink color determining means (See paragraph 0014) for setting the color of the ink used in printing by means of said screen plate to a lighter color than the ink used in printing means of the ink emission section and a printing device wherein said ink color determining means set the color of the ink used in printing by means of the screen plate to white (See paragraph 0067).

It would have been obvious to modify Murakami to have an ink determining means for determining and setting the color used in printing to white as taught by Siegeritz so as to provide an efficient means for selecting the color of ink to use for printing.

Claims 4 - 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Murakami in view of Koizumi et al.

Murakami teaches all that is claimed, as discussed in the above rejection of claims 1 and 10, except a printing device having a plurality of screen plates and the printing medium is fabric.

Koizumi et al. teaches a printing device wherein a plurality of said screen plates (See col. 1, lines 18 – 25) of different types are prepared and a printing device wherein the printing medium is a fabric (See col. 1, lines 14 - 18).

It would have been obvious to provide Murakami with a printing device wherein a plurality of screen plates of different types are prepared and the printing medium is fabric as taught by Koizumi et al. to provide a plurality of screen printing plates corresponding to the respective colors that are used for recoating.

With respect to claim 5, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have printing device wherein said printing medium supporting member comprises an adjusting mechanism (See Col. 12, lines 46 – 65) to provide Koizumi to have a means to securely position the medium for ink-jet textile printing.

With respect to claim 6, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the printing device wherein said screen plate is of substantially the same shape as said supporting face to have an inexpensive printing device (See col. 3, lines 7 – 10) for easily mounting and exchanging the screen plates for printing.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marvin P. Crenshaw whose telephone number is (571) 272-2158. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 7:00 - 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Hirshfeld can be reached on (571) 272-2168. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


MPC
April 4, 2005


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